

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02907 261322Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

L-02 SCA-01 /027 W

----- 061841

R 261200Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1019

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 2907

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, SA

SUBJ: CHECKLIST FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS VISITORS

REF : STATE A-855

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S CONTRIBUTION TO
SUBJECT CHECKLIST. REALIZE THAT IT IS RATHER LONGER THAN
ENVISAGED BY DEPT., BUT WE HAVE GONE INTO DETAIL SO THAT
IT CAN BE EDITED DOWN TO SUIT REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY

A. TRADE POLICY: IN GENERAL, SAUDI ARABIA IMPOSES FEW
OBSTACLES TO TRADE. IMPORT DUTIES ON THE GREAT MAJORITY
OF ITEMS ARE ZERO OR NOMINAL, EXCEPT FOR A VERY LIMITED
CATEGORY OF PROTECTIVE TARIFFS ON LOCALLY MANUFACTURED
ARTICLES. THE MAJOR EXCEPTION TO THE ABOVE IS THE
ABSOLUTE BAN ON IMPORT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND ANY
FOODS CONTAINING PROK PRODUCTS.

B. 1. HOTEL SPACE CONTINUES TO BE SEVERELY LIMITED,
ESPECIALLY IN RIYADH. RESERVATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL TRAVELERS
SHOULD BE REQUESTED AT LEAST A MONTH IN ADVANCE; FOR LARGE
GROUPS, TWO TO THREE MONTHS LEAD TIME IS ADVISABLE. IT IS
OBTEN IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF RESERVATION RE-
QUESTS IN ADVANCE, AND EVEN CONFIRMAED RESERVATIONS ARE
NOT INFREQUENTLY LOST IN THE SHUFFLE. HOTELS OCCASIONALLY
ARE REQUIRED BY THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT TO TURN OUT REGISTERED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02907 261322Z

GUESTS IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR VISITING OFFICIAL DELE-

GATIONS. THERE IS NO GUARANTEED PROTECTION AGAINST THE ABOVE. THE TRAVELER SIMPLY MUST BE HARDY AND PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED. LEADING HOTELS IN JIDDA ARE THE KANDARA PALACE, THE AL-ATTAS, THE OASIS, NEW BAHAUDDIN, THE RIYADH, AND THE AIRPORT; IN RIYADH: THE INTERCONTINENTAL, THE YAMAMA, THE ZAHRET ASH-SHARK, THE SAHARI PALACE, AND THE SAUDIA; IN DHAHRAN (AL-KHOBAR): THE GOSAIBI AND THE KHAJA. OF THESE, ONLY THE INTERCONTINENTAL (OPENING IN MAY) AND THE GOSAIBI ARE OF FIRST CLASS STANDARD. RATES (INCLUDING SERVICE CHARGE) CURRENTLY RANGE FROM \$30 TO \$42 PER DAY.

2. AIRLINE SEATS, PARTICULARLY FOR DOMESTIC TRAVEL, ARE ALSO SCARCE. (THE NATIONAL AIRLINE, SAUDIA, IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH SERVES RIYADH.) RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE EARLY AND RECONFIRMED A FULL DAY BEFORE ONWARD TRAVEL.

3. FOR THE MOST PART CREDIT CARDS ARE STILL NOT RPT NOT ACCEPTED BY HOTELS. YOU SHOULD CARRY A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF TRAVELERS' CHECKS TO SEE YOU THROUGH YOUR TRIP. THE EXCHANGE RATE AT BANKS IS ABOUT 3.45 SAUDI RIYALS FOR THE DOLLAR. YOU SHOULD AVOID CHANGING MONEY AT HOTELS UNLESS YOU ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AS LITTLE AS 3.15 RIYALS FOR THE DOLLAR.

4. TAXI DRIVERS AND AIRPORT PORTERS ARE ACCOMPLISHED RIP-OFF ARTISTS, WELL-PRACTICED IN EXTORTING EXORBITANT FEES BY EMBARRASSING THE TRAVELER WITH ANGRY ACCUSATIONS OF INSUFFICIENT PAYMENT. EXCEPT DURING THE PILGRIMAGE SEASON, FIVE RIYALS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR TAXI FARE FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL--OR ANY-PLACE IN TOWN IN EITHER JIDDA OR RIYADH (FOR DHAHRAN, 10 RIYALS).

5. COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, ALTHOUGH BEING EXPANDED, ARE STILL LIMITED AND VERY EXPENSIVE. TELEX RATES TO NEW YORK ARE IN THE RANGE OF \$10 PER MINUTE. IT CAN TAKE FROM AN HOUR TO A DAY TO GET A TELEPHONE CALL THROUGH TO NEW YORK, AT A CHARGE OF ABOUT \$8 PER MINUTE. SERVICE FOR IN-COUNTRY LONG-DISTANCE CALLS IS EVEN WORSE.

6. OBTAINING A VISA FOR SAUDI ARABIA CAN BE AN UNCERTAIN BUSINESS. SPONSORSHIP BY A SAUDI ENTITY OR INDIVIDUAL IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JIDDA 02907 261322Z

THE ONLY ASSURED METHOD. SOME SAUDI EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY WILLING TO ISSUE UNSPONSORED VISAS TO BUSINESSMEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE A BONA FIDE BUSINESS REASON FOR THE VISIT, BUT THIS CANNOT ALWAYS BE RELIED ON. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CANNOT RPT CANNOT SPONSOR VISAS FOR BUSINESS VISITORS. EXIT PERMITS NORMALLY CAN NOW BE SIMPLY GRANTED AT THE AIRPORT UPON DEPARTURE, BUT, DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF VISA AND LENGTH OF STAY, APPLICATION IN ADVANCE MAY

BE NECESSARY. TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, CONSULT WITH THE LOCAL AIRLINE OFFICE AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE DEPARTING SAUDI ARABIA.

7. THERE ARE THREE PRIMARY AND VERY DISTINCT KEY AREAS IN SAUDI ARABIA. JIDDA IS THE TRADITIONAL COMMERCIAL AND BANKING CENTER; RIYADH, THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT; WHILE DHAHRA (CONSTITUTED OF THE TWIN CITIES OF AL-KHOBAR AND DAMMAM) IS OF COURSE THE CENTER OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY AND LOCAL FOR THE BULK OF PROSPECTIVE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IS LOCATED IN JIDDA, AND A CONSULATE GENERAL IS IN DHAHRAN.
AKINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA02907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750147-0557
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750413/aaaaalzv.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-855
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHECKLIST FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS VISITORS
TAGS: BTRA, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006